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# NEWS

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## EOD Memorial dedicated at Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal

Story and photos by: JO1(AW) Dean Persons  
CNET PAO

EGLIN AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. - A new Memorial dedicated to the men and women who have lost their lives while performing Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) duties, was "unveiled" at a ceremony held at the Navy School Explosive Ordnance Disposal (NAVSCOLEOD) at Eglin Air Force Base on February 3rd.

A Joint Military ceremony was held at Eglin and brought to a close the many months of dedicated effort directed towards consolidation of command elements from Indian Head, Maryland with those located at Eglin.

Rear Admiral David L. Brewer III, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Education and Training served as the keynote speaker. Flag and General Officers from all four services, civic and community leaders of the greater Fort Walton Beach area, the men and women of the Naval

(MORE)

## 2-2-2-2 (EOD)

School Explosive Ordnance Disposal, distinguished military and civilian guests, and friends of EOD attended the ceremony.

In his speech, Adm. Brewer praised those who made the ultimate sacrifice. "The memorial before us is a permanent reminder of the sacrifices made by those who have given their all in service to their country in the extremely hazardous business of Explosive Ordnance School Explosive Ordnance Disposal here at Eglin Air Force Base," he said. It is a constant reminder to all who enter these portals (referring to the EOD School), that freedom is not free."

The Memorial has a long and proud history. In February 1969, the first EOD Memorial committee was formed with the intent to design and have a memorial constructed to honor those EOD Technicians who have sacrificed their lives in the performance of duty.

The original Memorial was dedicated on June 12<sup>th</sup> 1970. The design consisted of four white cenotaphs, one for each branch of service, with bronze tablets affixed to each with names inscribed to commemorate those who had fallen. When the command executed its consolidation last year, the original Memorial was disassembled and redesigned.

The original bronze tablets remain an integral part of the newly designed structure. Additionally, a brick from one of the original cenotaphs has been incorporated into the new Memorial by entombing it within the concrete wall. Currently there are 168 names on the Memorial - 101 Soldiers, 28 Marines, 27 Sailors, and 12 Airmen.

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### 3-3-3-3 (EOD)

NAVSCOLEOD is a Navy Managed command, jointly staffed by Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force personnel. The school's mission is to train officers and enlisted personnel of the U.S. Armed Forces, certain DoD civilian personnel and select international military students from 72 countries.

They train in the most current procedures for the location, identification, render safe recovery, technical evaluation and disposal of conventional, surface, chemical and biological and underwater ordnance both foreign and domestic. Additionally, U.S. students receive training in improvised explosive devices and nuclear weapons.

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